

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A device for selecting functions, comprising:
- (a) a memory wherein stored a one to one relationship
between two or more fingers of a user and multiple
functions, each of the two or more fingers of the
user have a different intrinsic finger feature
10 associated therewith, the intrinsic features are
features that are natural to the fingers and are not
brought about by any modifications to the fingers;
and
- (b) a fixed and discrete location is simultaneously
15 associated with the multiple functions, and wherein
the selection of desired functions is achieved by
the user alternating the different fingers at the
fixed and discrete location; and
- (c) a sensor capable of obtaining a finger feature from
20 the fixed and discrete location.
2. The device as set forth in claim 1, further
comprising a means to identify the user.

3. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a pre-authorized set of users who are allowed to select one or more of the multiple functions.

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4. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the memory has stored for multiple users different one to one relationships.

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5. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the device is an audio system, a mobile phone, a computer, a handheld computer, a medical device, a machine, a dashboard of a vehicle, a cockpit, a camera, a video game controller, a wireless earpiece
15 of a cellular phone hands-free kit, or a device where the user cannot see the controls while looking through the device.

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6. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
20 finger feature comprises fingerprint data, finger shape data, fingernail shape data or finger texture data.

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7. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the one

to one relationship between the intrinsic finger
features and the multiple functions comprises motion
data from the fixed and discrete location of the
sensor and wherein the device further comprises a
5 motion data analysis means.

8. The device as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
motion data is related to functions in a
computer program.

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9. The device as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
motion analysis means comprises character
recognition means.

15 10. The device of claim 1, wherein the one to one
relationship between the intrinsic finger features
and the multiple functions comprises coordinate data
from the fixed and discrete location of the sensor
and wherein the device further comprises a
20 coordinate data analysis means.

11. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
sensor comprises a trackpad.

12. The device as set forth in the claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a touchscreen.

13. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
5 sensor comprises virtual areas.

14. A method for selecting functions, comprising:

- (a) providing a one to one relationship between two or more fingers of a user and multiple functions, each
10 of the two or more fingers of the user have a different intrinsic finger feature associated therewith, the intrinsic features are features that are natural to the fingers and are not brought about by any modifications to the fingers;
- 15 (b) providing a fixed and discrete location is simultaneously associated with the multiple functions;
- (c) alternating between desired functions is achieved by alternating the different fingers at the fixed
20 and discrete location; and
- (d) providing a sensor capable of obtaining a finger feature from the fixed and discrete location.

15.The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising identifying the user of the selected finger feature.

5 16.The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising determining whether the user has authorization to actuate the desired function.

10 17.The method as set forth in claim 14, further comprising actuating the desired function if the user has been positively identified.

18. A method for selecting functions by a user wherein the user is operating a device wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of an audio system, a mobile phone, a computer, a handheld computer, a medical device, a machine, a dashboard of a vehicle, a cockpit, a camera, a video game controller, a wireless earpiece of a cellular phone hands-free kit, and a device where the user cannot see the controls while looking through the device, comprising:

(a) providing a one to one relationship between two or more fingers of the user and multiple functions, each of the two or more fingers of the user have a

different intrinsic finger feature associated therewith, the intrinsic features are features that are natural to the fingers and are not brought about by any modifications to the fingers;

5 (b) providing a fixed and discrete location is simultaneously associated with the multiple functions;

(c) alternating between desired functions is achieved by alternating the different fingers at the fixed and
10 discrete location; and

(d) providing a sensor capable of obtaining a finger feature from the fixed and discrete location. and